

who pledge allegiance to other countries than they do our U.S. troops fighting in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.

Supporting the American military and our veterans is more important than expensive giveaway programs to illegals.

And that's just the way it is.

STEM CELL RESEARCH VETO

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this House has repeatedly passed the bipartisan Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act to authorize Federal funds to be used for lifesaving research on embryonic stem cell lines that would otherwise be discarded. This type of research, conducted under strict ethical standards, is supported by an overwhelming number of Americans because of the hope it offers for the potential cures of many diseases, such as diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer and MS.

But yesterday, President Bush once again vetoed this important bill. In an attempt to save face, the President instead signed an executive order that will do little to advance essential medical research. The symbolic order is the President's attempt to score political points, but it fails to direct new resources or support for potentially lifesaving research.

A majority of this House and a majority of the American people are fed up with the Bush administration's stifling of this important life-affirming science. Democrats will continue to fight to promote important and groundbreaking research so that we can provide real hope to millions of Americans.

IN APPRECIATION OF ROB PORTMAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Rob Portman and his service to our great Nation, first, as a fellow Member of the House; then as United States Trade Representative; and, most recently, as Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Rob has proven to be an outstanding public servant. I know that Jim Nussle will be a competent successor and carry on in Rob's footsteps for the taxpayers. I am grateful my Republican colleagues and I had the opportunity a few minutes ago to thank Rob and wish him well.

Rob was the featured guest for our weekly Theme Team meeting. I appreciate Theme Team chairman JACK KINGSTON and Krista Cole on his staff for bringing a top-notch speaker every week. I wish Rob, his wife, Jane, and

their three children, Jed, Will, and Sally, all the best in the future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

TRADE POLICY

(Ms. SUTTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, our current trade policies have had devastating consequences for families and communities in northeast Ohio and across this Nation.

The effects of these damaging trade policies are no longer theoretical; they are real. We need a truly new trade model that addresses the concerns raised by the American people in the last election. Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority over trade.

We must have strong and enforceable standards in our trade agreement. We must address the ever-evolving unfair trade practices used by foreign governments to protect their markets, such as currency manipulation, illegal subsidies and product dumping. We must replace policies that reward businesses for outsourcing jobs with incentives and sensible tax policies that will help our businesses and workers.

We need a new trade model now.

ABSTINENCE/FIDELITY FUNDING PROTECTIONS IN PEPFAR

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief, called PEPFAR, has instituted a carefully crafted comprehensive approach to fighting the spread of AIDS.

This approach is based on the ABC prevention model that has proven highly successful in Uganda. This model was developed there by Africans in Africa. A stands for abstinence until marriage; B for be faithful, or monogamy; and C for condoms.

This approach is working to reduce AIDS prevalence. But the Foreign Ops appropriations bill that we vote on today seeks to gut this comprehensive approach. Specifically, the bill does away with funding protections for the abstinence and fidelity parts of the model. It would remove the mandate for the A and B portions in the model.

These are very important components, and these are the most effective in reducing AIDS occurrence. Just look at this chart illustrating the experience in Kenya, proof that abstinence and fidelity work.

I have an amendment to restore funding for these protections in a results-based comprehensive ABC approach. I urge support.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE, DEMOCRATS PROVIDE LARGEST FUNDING INCREASE EVER

(Ms. CASTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, last week, the new Congress adopted the most significant expansion of veterans health care in the history of the VA.

The real-life story of Lt. Sylvia Blackwood highlights why this is so important. Lt. Blackwood began suffering from PTSD after serving two tours of duty in Iraq. She found the strength to check herself into the VA Medical Center here in Washington. She was suicidal, but instead of receiving immediate treatment, she was directed to a waiting room. When she was finally admitted, she did not receive therapy or relief.

According to an in-depth series published by The Washington Post this week, unfortunately, Lt. Blackwood's story is not uncommon. An estimated one-third of all veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from mental health challenges.

America's servicemen and -women deserve the best care possible when they return from war, both for their physical and mental health. That is why this new Congress last week passed the most significant expansion and improvement in veterans health care in the VA's 77-year history. It's important for all Americans to take pride in that action.

"HOLD ONTO YOUR WALLET" CONGRESS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, well, here we are again. Another day, another several billion dollars in new spending proposed by this "Hold Onto Your Wallet" Congress. They have already passed the largest tax increase in history, and they spend too much money.

Today's tax du jour comes in the form of the Foreign Ops bill. The bloated 2008 spending bill will fork over \$34 billion of your tax money, an increase of more than \$3 billion. A subtle change means that under the current bill language, the Mexico City policy, which assures that nongovernmental entities that promote abortion would not be provided U.S. funding, could be completely disregarded and these entities would receive U.S. taxpayer funds.

The provision would mandate U.S. subsidies to organizations that actively promote abortion in foreign nations. Abortion has been a tragedy for many women here in the U.S., and it will carry with it the same hurt and trauma when it's used abroad.

If this language stays in the bill, the American taxpayer would be actually paying for an abortion for someone half